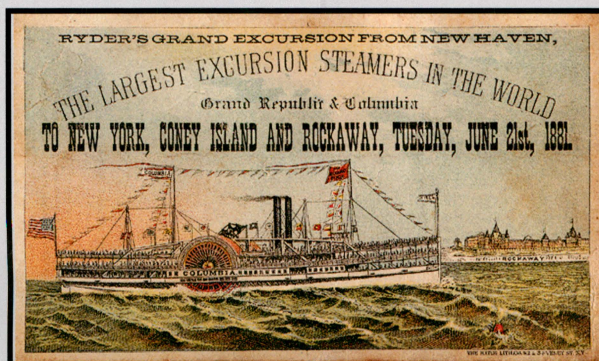


# C.O.C.A. TIMES

VOLUME 4  
ISSUE 2  
JULY 2004  
\$14.95



## Working Models



### DAILY OCEAN EXCURSIONS TO ROCKAWAY BEACH,

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" Leroy St., North River.	9.00 "	2.15 "
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" Jewell's Wharf, Brooklyn.	9.45 "	2.45 "

DIRECT FOR ROCKAWAY BEACH.

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Hotel Landing, at 7.00 P. M.

#### Steamboat AMERICA

Also runs in this line. For time of leaving see Daily Papers.

Return Tickets of the Long Island R. R. are good on these Boats.

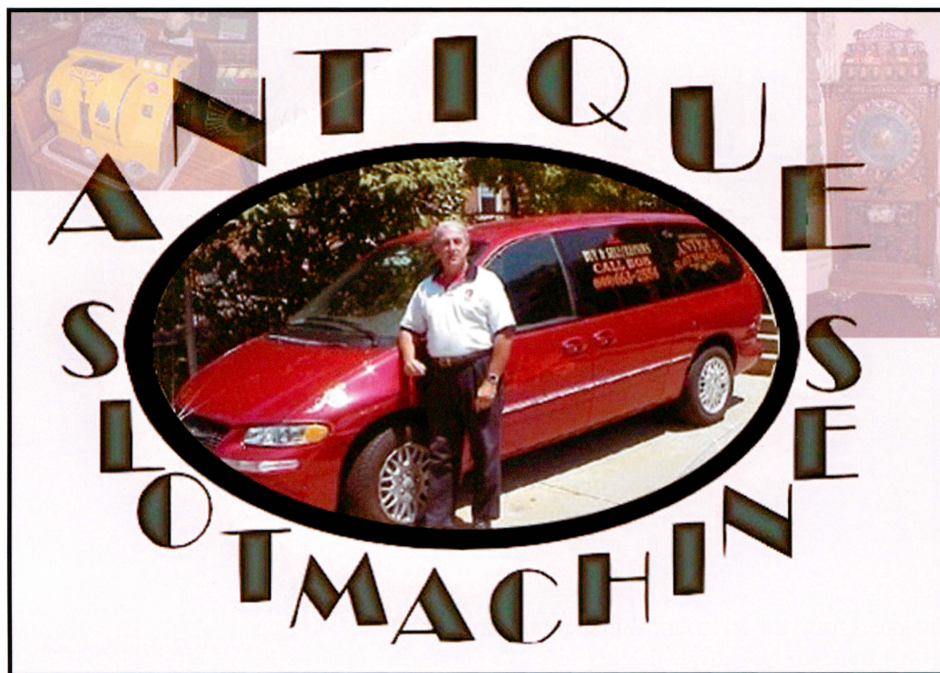
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Cover Story by  
Alex Warschaw



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# C.O.C.A. TIMES

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## Message from Our President

Well another Chicagoland has come and gone. Parking lot "action" seemed a little slow to me but I did hear of few killer finds out there. I think the Bob Lyons auction held the same week as the show may have had an impact on the numbers. Many of the dealers did have a great show. I myself had only 2 machines left by the end of Saturday. I know other dealers also did well with their vintage coin-op. The November show is typically better and often attracts a few more dealers and buyers. Chicagoland is still the best place for the collector to find machines, parts and answers to their coin op questions and needs.

We had a handful of members who took advantage of the discounted rooms at the Hilton (across the street from the Pheasant Run). John Carini and I are working on the agenda for the next meeting – I hope to plan a field trip but cannot confirm anything at this time.

Ira Warren did a great job with his presentation to the club members. He showed us some great photos of rare machines and lamented about the "ones that got away". Don't we all have regrets over machines we wish we would have bought when we had the chance. Thanks Ira for your time and expertise.

Bill Howard introduced the Cleveland C.O.C.A Convention Team and reported that the convention was going well - space is limited so make your reservation if you plan on attending. This could be a once in a lifetime opportunity to visit some museum quality collections. Please check the C.O.C.A web-site for more information.

Unlike my announcement at the April meeting, the Chicagoland show has been sold. If you are a dealer and set up, you would have received a letter introducing the new owners. They are: Kevin and Dawn Greco and Bob and Penny Traynoff – The show will be part of "TILT" promotions out of Wadsworth Illinois. They seem very nice and look forward to working with dealers and making the show even better than it already is. On behalf of C.O.C.A I wish the new owners the best of luck and success with future shows. Congratulations to Steve Gronowski and Bev Strauss on their retirements. Their names have become synonymous with Chicagoland. Their yearly efforts have provided a great venue for all of us to enhance our collections and knowledge of the wonderful world we call "Coin-Op".

If you haven't sent in your e-mail address update then please send it to Dan Davids, his e-mail address is djdavids@earthlink.net. I have already sent out two C.O.C.A updates and the third should be out in a month or so. This update keeps you current on coin op activities and the latest on internet/reproduction issues.

Have you had a great find or coin op story, perhaps you just want to vent on an aspect of our hobby – Just write it down (add pictures if you like) and send it to Paul Hindin at BedVibr8or@aol.com. He will be glad to help you put the article together and get it published in the magazine.

Happy Hunting  
Alex Warschaw

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**Deadline for Next Issue:**

**Aug. 15th, 2004**



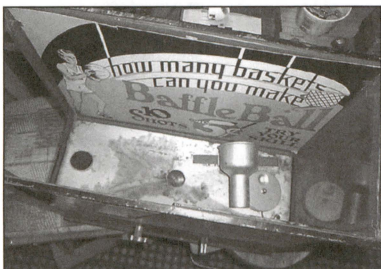


# AUCTION TRIP YIELDS A GREAT FIND JUST NOT AT THE AUCTION

by Phill Emmert - Colorado Springs

A recent trip to the northern part of the state to attend a nostalgia auction was responsible for the addition of another piece to my collection. There were many interesting items among the complete inventory of auction items, however, it was the stop along the way that yielded the piece for my collection. The stop was at the home of an individual from whom I have acquired a handful of items over the years. He is very good at covering lots of ground, in search of the myriad of coin-op items of interest to collectors. A recent trip he had made through Wyoming turned up the item that caught my fancy, an early 1930's Baffle Ball, Inc. basketball game. This version was a 10 Shots for 5 Cents example, likely a later version to the initial 20 Shots for 1 Cent, and then 10 Shots for 1 Cent model.

The machine was complete and in an "as found" condition that included broken glass, a broken portion in the mechanism, surface rust, grime, and years of use. But the very critical backdrop was there and the graphics in particularly nice shape for it's age. Definitely a machine that I wanted to own, so then the transaction began, and it ended in me trading a working countertop ABT Challenger gun game for Baffle Ball basketball. Other than a photo I had never seen one of these games. I truly enjoy sports- theme machines, and this one needed the TLC that I enjoy giving. Having owned



many of the Challenger games and considering them more plentiful, I was certainly thrilled with the trade and my acquisition.

The game was certainly in need of restoration as the many years of use and then somewhat unprotected storage had indeed taken it's toll on the game. So after taking a variety of photos the restoration effort began. The broken part in the shooting mechanism needed a simple weld. There was also a cross - member that the basket attaches to and it needed a weld as well. That work was followed by complete disassembly, bead blasting, cleaning, adjusting, painting, etc. The front glass panel had an original instruction card attached.



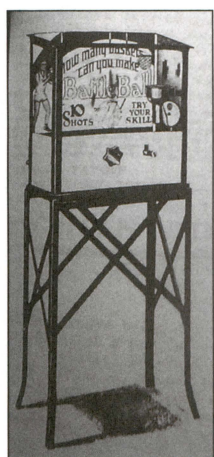
The front panel was also only half there!! So a digital photo of the instruction card and some work in

PhotoShop produced a new card ready to be attached to the new front panel. Other panels needed to be replaced as well and pretty soon it was looking like an aquarium. The nifty graphics on the original backdrop make the aquarium disappear when it is re-inserted in place. The original balls were too many years beyond usage, but being there they allowed me to determine a very suitable replacement.

After all the work was done the game was finally re-assembled and I got to play it for the first time. The nickel is inserted in the vertical coin slide on the front of the cabinet, and then the slide is pushed in to release the mechanism from the locked position to start the game. The player uses



the star shaped handle on the front turning it clockwise to throw the ball at the basket. The arm underneath the playfield is cupped and the ball sits in that cup and it comes up with the wheel being turned to shoot at the basket. There is a scoring register attached to the basket, and the weight of a ball dropping through the basket trips the register to mark the number of baskets. That register is cleared as part of the initial coining process. A fairly simple operation, but not easy to play, as the player can easily be providing too much or too little inertia in the shot process. It is a challenge to be Goldilocks when playing – you know - JUST RIGHT !!



Once the restoration was complete with it all back together I certainly realized that it is a fairly large game to be placed on a counter for play. Plus the mounting holes located on each side of the base certainly referenced that it might have once been attached to a stand. A little research turned up an issue of "Marketplace" produced in the 70's that showed an image of the game on an iron

stand. The image allowed me to be able to determine the scale measurement and have a reproduction stand created. I am very pleased to add the game to my collection and mounted on the stand as you see in the picture it certainly works for display and playability of the Baffle Ball basketball.

So as the date for the next auction approaches, I will be curious to see if I am as fortunate in finding another addition to my collection.



## C.O.C.A. WEB SITE

Just a reminder to all.....that C.O.C.A. has its own web-site. It is maintained by member Al Fox and has news regarding shows, auction results, and classified ads, as well as a question and answer section.

the address is:  
**[www.coinopclub.org](http://www.coinopclub.org)**

## 2005 COCA CALENDAR

Time is running out for the 2005 calendar. We must have your photos by July 31. This year we are asking for multiple photos of your favorite collectibles. We hope to display multiple items for each month.

If you want to see YOUR STUFF in the calendar, send your photos to: Jack Freund, PO Box 4, Springfield, WI 53176 E-mail: [jbgum@msn.com](mailto:jbgum@msn.com)



# BM Davis of Chicago

by Roger P. Smith

As any collector of coin-op machines knows, there are many instances of similarity between different machines. Similarities can lead to confusion in correctly identifying a machine, or may aid in establishing the time in which a machine was made or used. Some times the similarities were intentional, as in the "White Base" machines from Hance. These were intended to be part of a line of products from a single manufacturer. Some manufacturers made machines under different labels for various distributors, leading to minor variations like those seen with the "Kemaco", "Pix", and "Lion" vendors.

Because competition for counter space and for customer's coins was intense, machines had to be "up-to-date" and modern. As tastes changed, the styles of machines changed to reflect the time. Many inadvertent similarities developed from this

cause alone. Sometimes the similarity of features was intentional but more sinister. When a machine became popular, other manufacturers were not above trying to capitalize on their competitor's success. A good example of this is the "Star-door Master" which employed a blatant copy of the Columbus thank you door (Figure 1), and is said to have lead to a trade-



Figure 1

mark infringement suit. Another example is the similarity between the classic Ford machine and the copies made by Hart and H & W Machine Co.

Similarity of design can also be seen in the work of a single designer. The most vivid example of this type of lineage is found in the work of RD Simpson, who's hand is evident in the progression from "The Simpson" on to the Columbus A and beyond. Another, little known, example of this type of similarity occurs in machines that were seemingly unrelated; The Chicago Nut Vendor and the Advance Match Vendor.

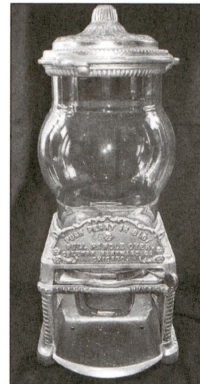


Figure 2

The Chicago Nut Vendor is an elegant example of a grand and decorated age (Figure 2). Patented September 8, 1908, Coleman Hardware of Chicago made this machine. It was made in several versions including the "Chicago", "Sun", "Star", "Morris" (named for the location of Coleman Hardware's foundry in Morris Illinois), and "Albert Pick." These differed only in the name on the side and some details of the marquis above the coin entry. This heavy cast iron machine was unique in many ways. Its coin mechanism alternated back and forth with each successive coin, rather than the more common push-pull or pull-push two-phase motion found on most lever type machines (Figure 3).



Figure 3

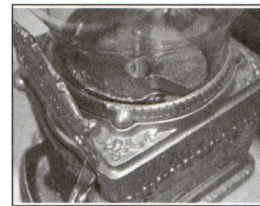


Figure 4

The Chicago has an unusual way of holding the globe and top cap assembly in place. Rather than the usual hold down ring and center rod(s), the Chicago uses a set of four clamps that fit over a flange of glass at either end of the globe (Figure 4). A second set of four clamps holds the top cap assembly in place. This arrangement gave the machine a very clean look and the clamps form a decorative ring that fits well into the overall design.

As anyone who has tried to find a Grandbois without a cracked globe can tell you, using flanges on glass globes does not make for a durable machine. This may explain why this system is not seen on other machines. There is one very lovely exception: The Advance Match Vendor.

The Advance Match Vendor was patented February 29th, 1916, and uses a decorative ring to hold the glass dome of the machine (Figure 5). This





Figure 5

ring is a single unit but the similarity in concept and decoration seem almost too much of a coincidence. Even though the Advance Machine Company was also located in Chicago, this seems to be too much of a

similarity for there not to have been a connection. The connection was the somewhat enigmatic figure, Bethuel M. Davis of Chicago.

To explore the impact of Bethuel Davis, we must go back to 1901 and the first time the Advance Machine Company appears in the Chicago City Directory. That City Directory contains the simple entry "Advance Machine Company; CC Travis Pres: BM Davis Sec, 194 S Clinton." The first listing of the Advance Machine Company in the Certified List of Illinois Corporations (1903) lists a capital stock of \$50,000 but curiously enough lists A.J. Travis as the secretary. What had happened to the founding secretary and who was A.J. Travis?

The second question is easier than the first. Clarence C. Travis was founder and president of the Advance Machine Company for many years. He was president through Advance's move from its first location at 194 S. Clinton to its permanent home at 4641-47 N. Ravenswood Ave. some time between 1905 and 1911. Clarence was variously listed as President or President-Treasurer up through 1928-1929, and it wasn't until 1950 that H. Gilmore Walter (Advance's last Chicago President) was listed in the corporate listings. In Advance Machine's first corporate listing, both Clarence and A.J. Travis listed the same home address (1123 Asbury Ave., Evanston, Illinois) which strongly suggests a family relationship (brother?, son?, wife?). A.J. Travis continued to be active in the corporate roster moving from secretary to Vice President in 1916, being replaced by Albert E. Gilbert as Secretary. A.J. Travis' role as Vice President continued at least until 1929.

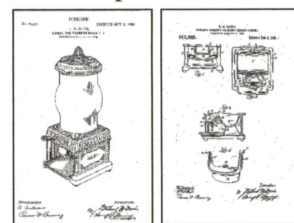
What had happened to Bethuel Davis is, at this point, somewhat conjectural. Has there been a "falling out" between he and Clarence Travis? Was this a planned phase in of a family member? We



Figure 6

may never know. We can guess that the separation was not completely hostile because of a March 8, 1904 Davis patent of a "coin-detector for coin-actuated devices" for Advance that was very similar to the Advance Climax machine and his later collaboration on the Advance Match Vendor (Figure 6). There

may have been some degree of separation from the company that allowed Davis to work with (or sell ideas to) Coleman Hardware, as evidenced by his 1908 and 1909 patents on the Chicago machine (Figures 7 & 8). Because it often took 2 to 5 years from the time a patent was prepared until it was granted, it is likely that Davis began work on the Chicago around the time he left the Advance Machine Company corporate roster.



Figures 7 & 8

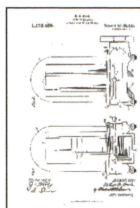


Figure 9

B.M. Davis remained active in the design of vending machines in Chicago and by 1911 he had filed the patent application for the Advance Match Vendor. When the patent (#1,173,489) was granted in 1916, the patent rights were assigned by Davis to Clarence Travis (Figure 9). While this could suggest that Davis was employed by Advance, the fact that Davis also had a December 17, 1916 patent (#1,208,921, Figure 10) who's rights were assigned to Post-Card vending Machine Company of Chicago, suggests that he may have been more of a free-lance designer. There may have been some interaction between companies so that Davis might still have been a valued employee of Advance at the time he was designing the Chicago Nut Vendor. We may never know.

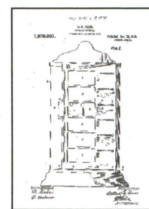
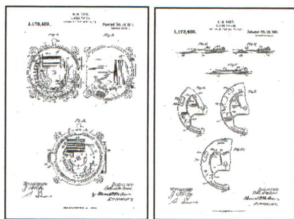


Figure 10

Davis' designs were not only beautiful; he was an innovator as well. We are all familiar with the





Figures 11 & 12

reciprocating ratchet that is used on so many machines to insure that the lever is taken all the way through its motion before being allowed to return. This ratchet also insures that the

lever will complete its return without the possibility of tampering. As can be seen in "Fig 5" and again in "Fig 8", "Fig 9", and "Fig 10", of the patent drawing shown (Figures 11, 12), this ratchet was first introduced in the Advance Match Vendor.

How many other machines enjoyed the inventive innovations or decorative touches of B.M. Davis? I for one don't know. We can say, however, that he did give us two of the most elegant machines from an elegant era. The next time you notice a similarity between machines, remember it may be more than coincidence. They may have common roots like B.M. Davis of Chicago.

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## TRASH BOX FIND

by John Carini

I enjoy reading the Auction News, and attending a few auctions each month. There was one in particular I wanted to attend, but it was kind of far, and I was busy. They had listed 2 match machines that I was interested in - one was a Hawkeye and the other a Pix Matches. I decided to call and proxy bid. The auctioneer was rather new to the business - he told me this was only his 6th auction. We had a rather long discussion. First I entered a proxy on the machines, then he told me about a third one that was so rusted they just threw it away. I asked him to describe it. He gave me a brief description - it had a rust cast iron mechanism and a carousel that said "Safety matches 1 cent a box." I told him I would pay him to retrieve it and send it to me as a parts machine.

He did retrieve it and e-mailed me photos. As I suspected it was an Ideal Safety Matches machine, or what was left of it, in rather rough condition (see photo). I thought he would just sell it to me, but instead he put it in his next auction. Again, I entered a proxy. I had lost the first two machines, and was determined to win this one.

Finally, the auctioneer called back to let me know I won it for \$150.

When I received the machine I knew I had my work cut out for me. A friend who is a master woodworker and millwright helped me to do the restoration. He used 80 year old Oak wood to create the base. We soaked the mechanism for 5 days in an acidic solution to remove the rust. After adding a few springs and bolts, the machine worked perfectly. He was able to do all this work using a photograph from Silent Salesman. I then located a dome. I still have a few more things to finish, but overall, can't believe the transformation (see photo).





# Accessing U.S. Patents

by Jan Berning

The first step to accessing U.S. Patents is to download the viewer to enable you to see the patent images.

Connect to the internet using Netscape or Internet Explorer.

(Mac users can view the images using Quicktime 4.1 or later.)

Go to <http://www.internetiff.com/InterneTIFF/Try.htm>

Click the appropriate link, based on your browser for a free download of interneTIFF.

This should take approximately 8 minutes on a 56K modem.

Go to [www.USPTO.gov](http://www.USPTO.gov)

On the left side of the page is the word Patents and below that the words File, Status, and Search.

Click on: Search. This will take you to a new page.

In the green rectangle on the left side of this page you will find the words:

1. Quick Search (This is a Boolean search for searching two different criteria at once.)
2. Advanced Search (Will allow searches for numerous criteria one at a time.)
3. Patent Number Search (Will allow searches only for one patent number at a time.)

You must know the patent number to use this search.)

In order to search for scales, most of which are listed in classification 177, you must use the "Advanced Search" link.

With your cursor in the empty box, marked Query, on this page, type in:

ccl/177/\$ and change the "Select Year" box to "1790 to present [entire database]"

Click on the button marked "Search."

This will display a data base of almost 15,000 patent numbers, most for scales. The later or newest patents are displayed first and the earliest ones will be at the end of the list. You can move to any page in the database by putting a number in the box marked "Jump To" and clicking the button. As an example typing 14,000 in the Jump box will take you to a page with patents from 1883. Clicking on any Pat. No. will take you to a page with several red bordered buttons. Clicking on the button marked "Images" will give you the first page of the patent. To move to subsequent pages of the patent: click on the arrow buttons at the top or left side of the patent image. To print the patent page: use the print button at the top of the patent image.

*Note: The web site changes sometimes so that these directions may change from time to time.*

## OTHER SEARCHES:

CCL/369/\$	Juke Boxes
CCL/463/\$	Amusement Devices
CCL/194/\$	Coin Operated machines and banks etc.



# GREEN BAY AUCTION

by John Carini

We are avid readers of the Antique Trader and the Antique Auction News. These periodicals, along with our local Journal, clue us in on what auctions to attend. While reading the Auction News in early November, I saw a listing for a couple of peanut machines at an auction in the Green Bay area. There was a web-site listed, so I asked my son to check it out and report back on what type of machines they were.

The pictures weren't the best, but my son Nick said it looked like an Ohio Vendor and a Northwestern '33 peanut machine. I decided to call the auctioneer up and check out the details. She wasn't much help with the details, directing us back to the web-site for the photos.

The auction was November 14th, and I knew I would be at the Chicago Slot Machine show that weekend, so I decided to proxy bid. I really wanted to get my hands on the Ohio vendor, so I bid \$350 for it and \$100 for the '33. I have proxy bid many times before and never won, so I was pleasantly surprised when I received a call on Monday the 16th telling me I won both machines. \$100 for the Ohio vendor and \$70 for the '33. We drove up the following weekend to pick them up. Both machines were in great condition, keyed and working (see photo).

We stopped at several antique shops on the way home, but didn't find anything worth purchasing. But I was so pleased with my auction find, I didn't mind. So, for those of you who proxy bid but always seem to loose, keep trying, your ship just might come in.



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**Or Phil Cunningham at 818/845-4964**



# Lone Jack, MO - Auction

LONE JACK, MO. WAS THE SETTING OF THE LATE GREG WARREN AUCTION. THE AUCTION HALL WAS FILLED FOR 3 DAYS WITH AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF GREAT COIN OP AND COLLECTIBLE ITEMS. I NEVER SAW MORE RARE JUKEBOXES AND WALL SPEAKERS IN ONE PLACE, AND BASED ON THE BIDDING , THERE WAS A GREAT DESIRE TO OWN THESE. MANY NEW RECORDS WERE SET. DIRK SOULIS RAN THE AUCTION LIKE A CLOCK WITH PERFECT TIMING. HUNDREDS OF ITEMS WERE SOLD EACH DAY AND THE PACE WAS VERY QUICK.

## *SOME OF THE RESULTS WERE :*

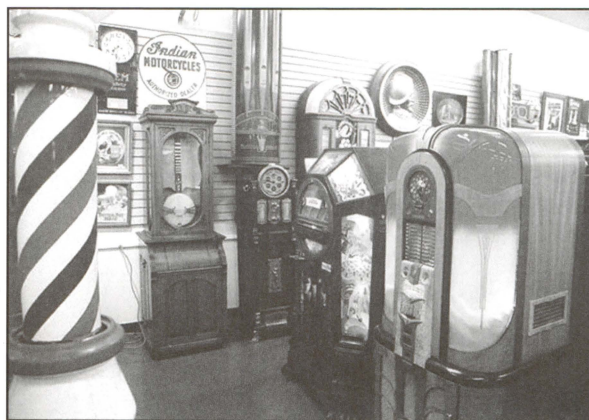
**WURLITZER 850 JUKEBOX \$30,000;**  
**SEEBURGH HORSE RACE GAME \$5,750;**  
**CAILLE MASCOT ARCADE MACHINE \$26,000;**  
**ROCK-OLA ORGAN JUKEBOX \$4,200;**  
**MILLS ELECTRICITY IS LIFE SHOCKER \$23,000;**  
**COUNTER TOP ELECTRICITY IS LIFE SHOCKER \$8,250;**  
**MILLS ROULETTE TRADE STIMULATOR \$1,800;**

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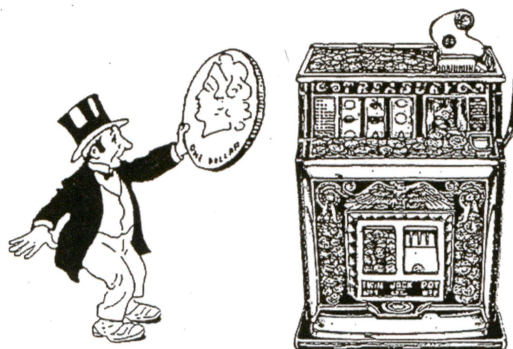
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# “THE COLUMBIA”

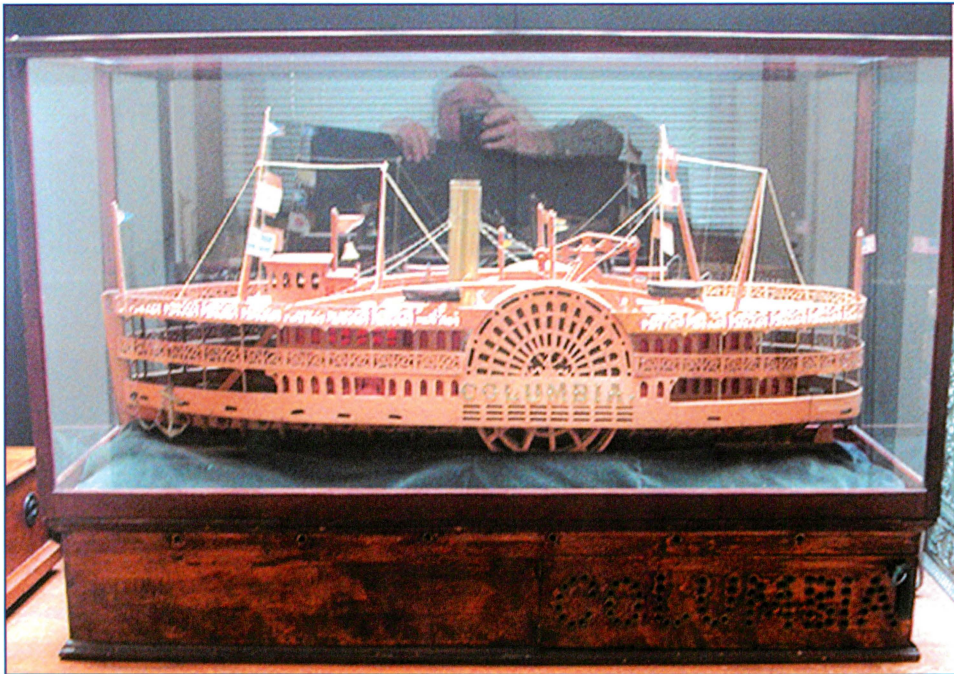
Cover Story by Alex Warschaw

*When one thinks of a working model their thoughts go to a large diorama depicting a theatrical scene built in what is often an old upright square case usually designed for a crane or digger machine. Typically one would see a “Haunted House” or a “Burglar” scene played out with moving scenery and puppets typically designed to amuse and entertain.*

*The working model depicted on the cover of this months COCA times is a TRUE working model. It is designed and built to represent a scale model of the actual side wheeler steamer the “COLUMBIA”.*

It is beautifully built down to the finest of details. Its presence is truly impressive- stretching 42 inches long and 27 inches to the top of the case. When a nickel is deposited,

both side paddles rotate and both pistons go up and down. It also plays music while performing. The mechanism is fairly simple and the energy used to turn the music box is also used to operate the rest of the model. On the cover is a Victorian Trade Card which depicts the beauty of this machine and advertises that this ship was one of the largest steamboats in the world. It ran daily excursions from Rockaway to Coney Island. This magnificent piece is now part of the Bob Pellegrini Collection. Bob is also the owner of the companion piece to the Columbia - a coin operated Train Locomotive and tender. It is called “The Locomotive” and is modeled after the actual Central Vermont 109 locomotive. This 4-6-2 engine with a double trucked tender is longer yet smaller than the typical large



scale floor model- it is coin operated (also on a nickel) and uses 2 clock-work mechanisms to run. The engineer pulls the lever to start the wheels and pistons turning and the

coal tender pulls a cord that rings the bell on top of the engine. A battery operated light goes on in front and in the cabin. The 2 machines were made by William T. Smith circa 1885 and both work perfectly – To the best of my knowledge this is the only working countertop model of either of these machines. These are without doubt some of the first coin operated machines built and designed in the U.S. These may well be the precursors to what we know today as the “Penny Arcade Machines. William Smith was an engineer by trade who developed many industrial patterns and prototypes. His true love was model building. He realized his passion when he conceived of the idea of a “working model”. His approach was to design a class of models designed to excite and entertain the curios-



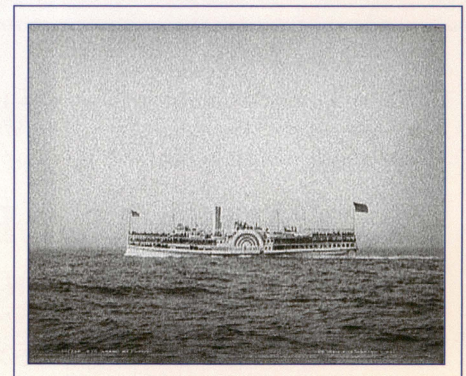
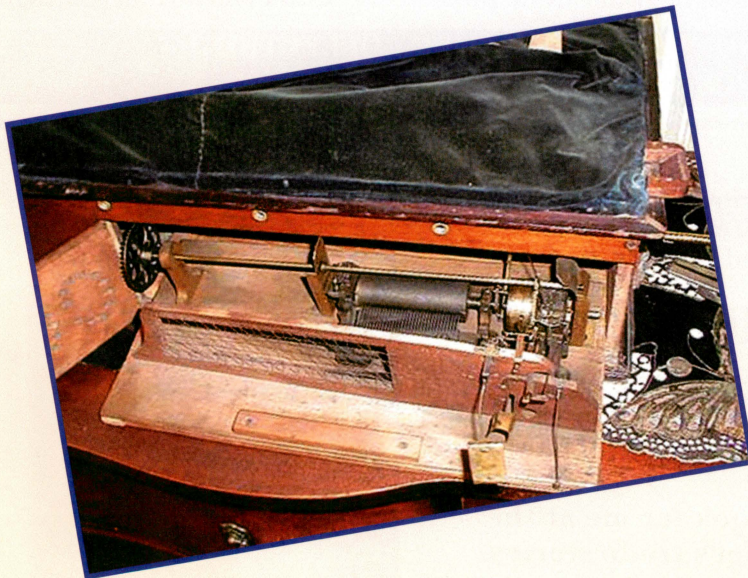
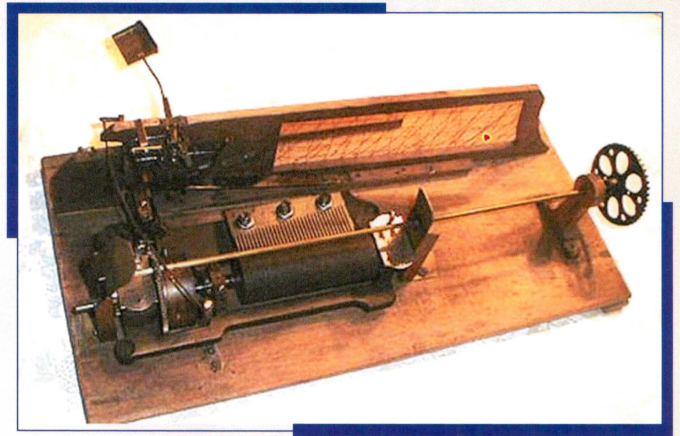
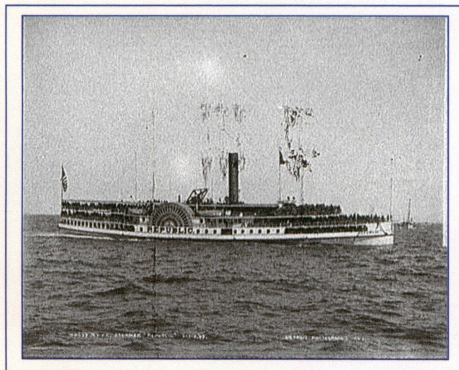
ity of the general public which could be operated by depositing a coin. He specifically mentioned building a locomotive and a steamship, and connecting it to a musical device, the motion of which would drive the wheels or paddle wheels of the model. If you would like to learn more about William T Smith and his inventions then I would refer you to "Arcade 1 pg. 29" by Dick Bueschel. One could imagine a family waiting to embark on a trip across the Hudson river and their small child staring at this massive glass encased ship. I can hear him/her saying "mommy can I have a nickel" what parent could resist. These machines were typically placed in the train stations or ship ports and would be centered in the middle of the room. Both of these machines are known to have been located in the Sea Beach Palace Hotel in Coney Island circa 1887. The wonderful thing about these are that they are designed to be enjoyed from

any side or angle.

Bob Pellegrini is a good friend and has been a collector of the full range of coin operated machines for nearly 25 years. His collection is truly eclectic containing some of the rarest examples of gambling, arcade, vending, music, and automata. The collection also includes a 20 foot long 99 key Verbeeck concert organ. I feel very fortunate to call him my friend and to have seen his wonderful collection of over 100 pieces first hand. I hope that in a future issue we can highlight some of the other rare and unique European and American machines in his collection. The only sad comment about this story is that both of these machines used to be part of my collection. These are without doubt some of the first coin operated machines built and designed in the U.S. These may well be the precursors to what we know today as the "Penny Arcade Machines".









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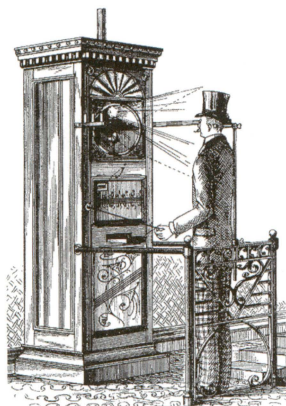


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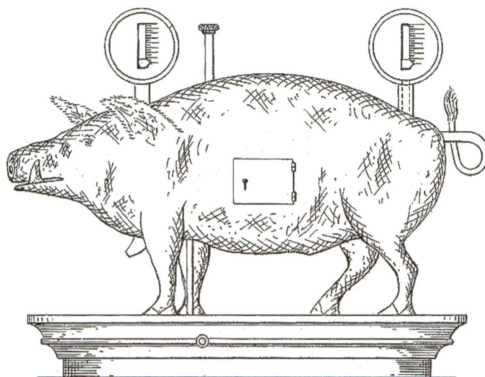


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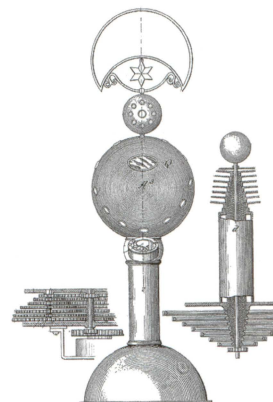
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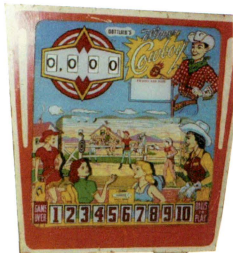
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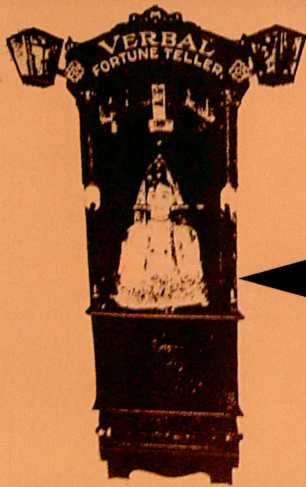
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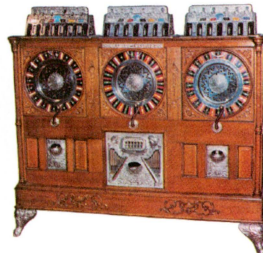
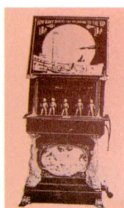


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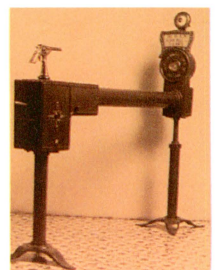


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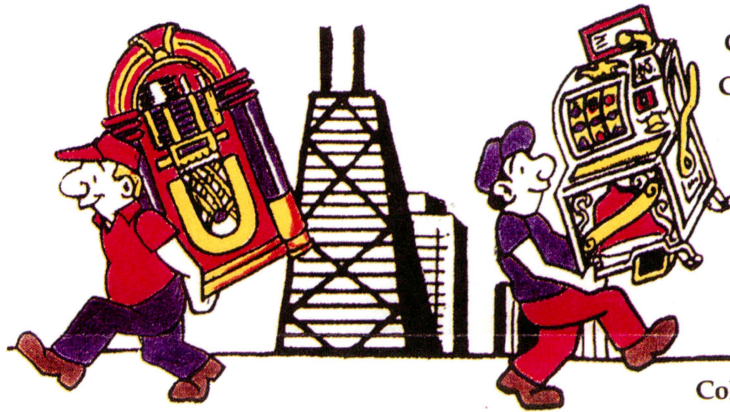
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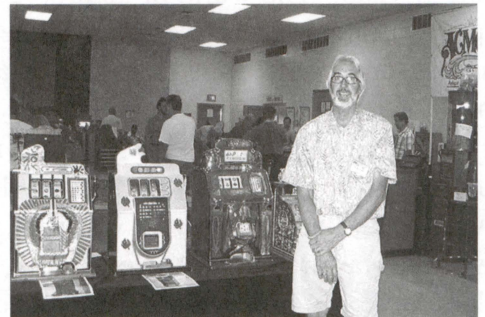


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In 2001 the Antique Coin Machine Collectors Association (ACMCA) took over the show from Rosanna & Bill Harris. They generously handed over all of the information to our club in order for us to be able to continue a show that has been around Southern California for many years. In the spirit of the clubs dedication & promotion of the hobby of antique coin-op collecting, it was an important decision. Our primary goal is to add new members to our club and expose the idea of collecting as a hobby to the general public.

The show is entirely run by the members on an all-volunteer basis. We have a wonderful spirit of fellowship and it will set a tone for another successful show this year. Our dates are October 23rd & 24th, 2004. For information regarding the show and dealer interest please contact Ray & Billie Dier at [diermanor@charter.net](mailto:diermanor@charter.net) or 562-430-4394.





# TALES OF THE HUNT

Hosted by Jack Freund

*This "TALE" is submitted by Roger Smith of Parkville MO.. It is a wonderful story but before getting into it I want us all to understand the word "serendipity". For those of us who haven't a clue as to the meaning of the word "serendipity", the dictionary defines it as "AN APTITUDE FOR MAKING DESIRABLE DISCOVERIES BY ACCIDENT". Now that we all are knowledgeable let's get to the story.*

---

## *Ignorance, Serendipity, and Giants*

Most collectors go through a natural process of growth that is characterized by increasing knowledge, sophistication, and, hopefully, means. Sometime the fate looks out for us as new collectors and results in one of those 'tales of the hunt.'

For this tale, turn back the clock 20 years to the fall of 1983. The world of coin-op collecting was quite different; there were few collectors, a few shows, and none of the reference sources or body of knowledge that we call upon today. Collectors shared speculation about who made what machines, how things were supposed to look and what was valuable and what was not. It was a time when a Master vendor was exotic, Columbus vendors were 'common' and the number of known types of machines barely topped 200. My wife and I were living in central Illinois and had discovered the Indianapolis Advertising Show and the other occasional 'antique' shows held at the Indianapolis (Indiana) State Fair Grounds. At that time, the Indianapolis Advertising Show was very different – it was smaller and held in a little, low ramshackle white building on the far side of the racetrack. It provided a drafty, frequently cold (for the fall show) venue that often had to share parking with a Brewerania show held in the adjacent building.

We had discovered the Advertising show by accident a few months earlier (July) and there had met a burly, affable, vendor who shared our interest in vending. He had enthusiasm and knowledge, both of which he shared freely and unselfishly. We had purchased a Yu-Chu mint vendor from him and this had become the start of our long and rich friendship with one of the indisputable giants of

our hobby, Bill Enes.

It was September and we decided to drive to Indianapolis (a two hour drive) for a day outing. We packed up our then one and four-year-old sons and made the drive to Indianapolis. A typically gray, overcast September day made the crowded advertising show damp and arduous with two little ones, that was not completely offset but the bright colors of the advertising on display. I do not recall if Bill had any machines for sale at that show or if it was just a matter that we had limited resources and had not acquired our later interest in advertising, but we came away finding only a 'Smith and Sons' advertising box. There was, however, as was often the case, a larger general antique show in the much larger horticulture building near the fair grounds entrance, and we decided to wander around that as well.

The general antiques show was larger and, of course, much more varied. We did not expect to find anything of great interest and acquired a small bud vase, a cobalt glass jar and sock darning, a small match safe and two rug beaters destined to decorate a wall. It was then we encountered a small booth with a group of marvelous coin-operated offerings. The seller was another early, though little known pioneer in our hobby, Nick Zbranek.

Memory is not kind enough, and our knowledge at the time was woefully insufficient to be able to name or even describe all the machines he was offering. They were types we (and many other collectors) had not seen before. We only knew that we were intrigued by the look and action of the offerings. Our resources were limited and without



knowing what we were truly seeing or buying, we settled on only two machines, passing up others that I now wish I could know. I do recall going back to share our finds with Bill Enes who was equally surprised by our finds.

In our ignorance, what did we serendipitously net from this encounter with these giants of coin-op collecting? Only a little Columbus Model "E" with tray breath pellet vendor (first picture) and an LE West vendor (second picture). We liked these machines for what they were, how they looked and how they worked. It would be quite some time before we came to truly know how lucky we were to encounter these gems.

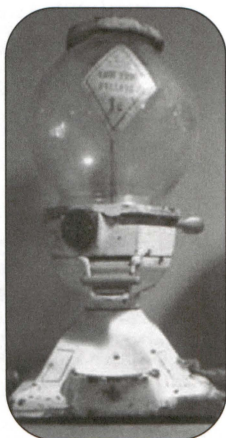
Over the next year we would go on to acquire a Chicago vendor (picture three) and a Decatur

Fairest Wheel (with original papers) from Nick and a National Breath Mint Vendor from Bill (picture four). We would continue to obtain additional extraordinary machines (17 in all) from Bill over the years we were privileged to know him. More importantly, we gained knowledge and the richness of his friendship.

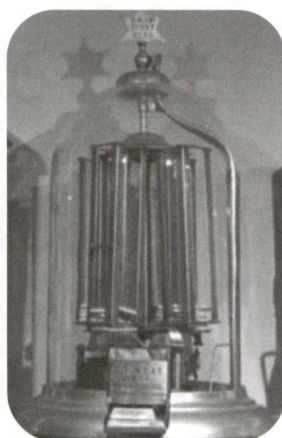
Sometimes out of ignorance and serendipity, we gain gifts, both material and otherwise, beyond our right to hope for.

Please submit YOUR Tale to: Jack Freund, P.O. Box 4, Springfield WI 53176 or email to: [jbgum@msn.com](mailto:jbgum@msn.com)

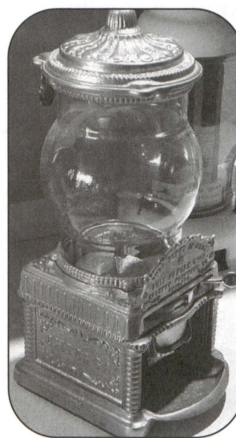
Don't forget to .....  
**PRAY FOR MORE STUFF!!**



(picture 1)  
*Columbus E*



(picture 2)  
*LE West*



(picture 3)  
*Chicago*



(picture 4)  
*National Breath Mint*

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## THANK GOD FOR COIN-OP COLLECTING

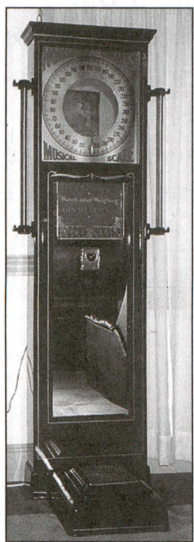
This was sent to me recently by a C.O.C.A. member. They had purchased a gumball machine off the internet and here is the reply sent by the seller.

Hi, if you only knew how happy I am right now! My son lost his whole family in a wreck recently (wife and two sons), he has had a complete breakdown and I have been taking care of his bills while he recovers as well as mine. The day before I listed this I prayed for a miracle and it came in the form of a gumball machine. They say God works in mysterious ways. This time it was of all things through a gumball machine! the machine has to be blessed because it certainly has made me smile from ear to ear!! They say gumball machines bring happiness and smiles and they certainly were not kidding! Ha! I have smiled till my face hurts! Thank you so much, you are wonderful....p.p.



# “National” Normandy Chimes Scale circa 1925

by Jim and Merlyn Collings



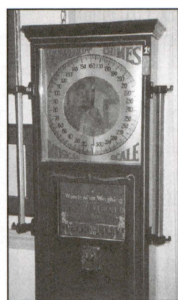
(photo 1)

This is truly a fascinating scale that performs three services. The Normandy Chimes Scale offers your weight, chiming sounds and a money back feature if you're a lucky patron. This handsome scale is one of our favorites and is very sought after by collectors (photo 1).

When the patron stands on the scale, a penny is inserted and the proper weight is given. A penny, nickel or dime can be used if the coin trip is adjusted. As the patron steps off the footplate the coin goes down a penny drop through a series of pegs. The penny drop is decorated in red with gold letters, enhanced by two elves ringing chimes. The penny drop reads: “Watch after weighing / your coin returned / or hear Normandy chimes” and a gold arrow in between the words: Free Slot (photo 2). The pegs are arranged in such a way that the coin will be returned in the money cup below (photo 3). This happens about 10% of the time. The element of chance inspired people in the twenties to use the scale. Even if the patrons got their money back, they probably would weigh again to hear the musical chimes.

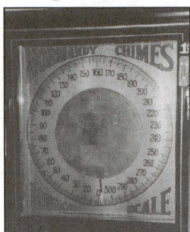


(photo 2)



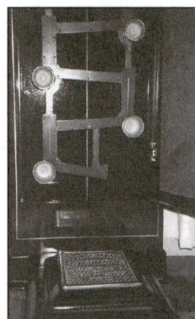
(photo 3)

The Normandy Chimes Scale has a large circular mirror as part of its' face. Displayed in each corner of the face are the words: Normandy, Chimes, Musical, Scale, (photo 4) we believe there are a few facial variations around the mirror.



(photo 4)

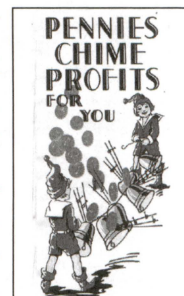
The column has a long rectangular mirror as well. These mirrors were fashionable in the 1920's & 30's. The long column mirror, covered by glass, can be removed by the collector, to show the inside workings of the traveling penny hitting the bells. There are 4 bronze bells in the lower portion of the scale and a series of coin chutes that go from one



(photo 5)

bell to another. As the coin passes and hits each one of the 4 bells, melodious chimes are heard. The coin acts as a hammer (photo 5) even though the patron might not get their coin back they are rewarded and placated by hearing the beautiful chimes. This made the Normandy Chimes Scale very popular and profitable.

An interesting advertising flyer from the National Automatic Machines Co., located in St. Paul, Minn. is pictured here (photo 6). It reads: Pennies Chime Profit for You. Notice the elves ringing the chimes, as mentioned earlier, they are also pictured on the penny drop portion of the scale. This flyer indicates that the model 170, Normandy Chimes Scale was originally cream color with the corners air-brushed in brown (photo 7). The handle bar holders and clothing hooks are black porcelain and the actual handle bars are white porcelain. Coats, wraps, purses and even shoes could be put on the hooks for a more accurate weight. The scale measures 12"H and 18"W while the scale base measures 20"x25". The scale weighs 200 lbs. and has a weighing capacity of 300 lbs. Other features include a bronze platform or footplate which reads: “National Automatic Machines Co., St. Paul,



(photo 6)



(photo 7)



Minn." a slightly pitched roof on the top of the scale and two small locks that lock the hinged mirrored door, of the front of the column.

The Normandy Chimes Scale is a must for gambling enthusiasts, music collectors and scale lovers.

Note: A recent, possibly one-of-a-kind, colonial arcade scale with a double handle and adjustable lift mechanism was found by collector Mike Gorski (photos 8 & 9). refer to previous article C.O.C.A. Times, Vol. 1 - Issue 2.

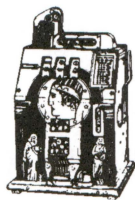
## **HAPPY SCALE COLLECTING!**



(photo 8)



(photo 9)



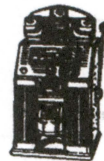
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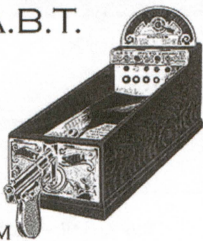
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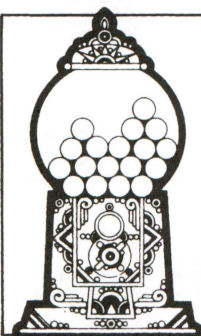
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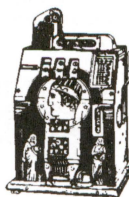
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## NEXT ISSUE - FALL/WINTER 2004

All Classified Items...FOR SALE Only Received by  
August 15th, 2004, 50 Words or Less will be **FREE!**

For more details, contact Paul Hindin at BedVibr8or@aol.com or 262-242-3131



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2) Marquee playfield for PEO & GOTTLIEB countertop baseball games - \$25.00 each.

3) E-Z MARQUEES (numbers or baseball) - \$8.50 each. All prices plus postage.

Jack Freund, P.O. Box 4, Springfield, WI 53176 or  
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Call Ken Haynes at 770-934-2377 (H) or 770-392-2301.

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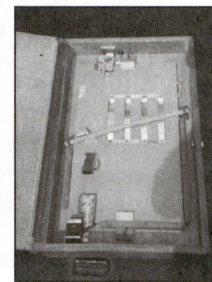
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The name of the game is Cascade.  
It was made by the Bell-Fruit  
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Serial #B216, Machine Type 9A-1



It seems that the game was sold to a New World Automatics Limit Praycott, Derr Byshire-Enquires & Service - Praycott. I was wondering if anybody knows if they are still in business and can I have their name and address so I could see if they have anything in their junken department. Finally, it seems the only part that is missing is the striker plate and striker plate housing. I am hoping someone out there can help me. Thank you.

*Mail inquires to:*

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